

1. **Members present:** Denis Messier, Todd Patten, Dana Rivers, Robert Gadomski, Dave Witham, Matt Hanlon, Mark Richardson and Todd Marsh
2. Messier called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Gadomski stated that Rollinsford continues to gather information. He stated that they are pushing towards withdrawing. He stated that they are gathering information for a stand-alone SAU, which does not look like it will be cost effective. He stated they are looking for information from surrounding SAUs that might like to contract services with them. He stated that the Somersworth Board would be discussing this tonight at their meeting and it looks like there might be a possibility of perhaps Dover and Marshwood throwing their hat into the ring. He stated that this committee has several things to decide. He stated that because the timeframe does not line up with Rollinsford, because your term ends in January and their vote is in March for any plan that they put forward, he knows that this committee would like to know what their outcome is before you stop your committee. He stated that he had asked if this committees responsibility could be extended and the answer was no and this committee's responsibility ends one year from appointment which is January 9th. He stated that you do have the opportunity to reappoint if discussed with the City Council and they could reappoint another committee. He stated that it could be the same committee members or different committee members. He stated that if they do, you would have an active committee in March should the vote in Rollinsford be a no, you would still have an active committee. He stated that if that were the case, you do not need to advance as a quickly right now because if the time runs out in January you could see where Rollinsford goes and then get reappointed in January, 2020. He stated that the other choice is to move forward with this committee and if it were to come out that you were going to pull out, you could present it to the State Board of Education basically saying that if Rollinsford pulls out we will let them. He stated that this would be a lot muddier because of the "what ifs". He stated at that point you not only have the City Council and the School Board involved but also the State Board of Education in the mix. Messier asked if we could extend the committee. Gadomski stated the answer was no. He stated that he asked the New Hampshire School Board Attorney and their own attorney and they both said the same thing. He stated they said the authority runs out after one year and the City Council can reappoint. Witham stated that he prefers the first option of reappointing another committee, if need be, which may be the same committee, because it buys us the time to see what Rollinsford does. He stated that the committee would come to an end in January and the City Council will choose a new committee which may be the same members. He stated that the one wild card in that is that come January there could be new members on the City Council. Gadomski stated that you should probably have another meeting in late September or October time frame to just discuss where they are with Rollinsford. He stated that they have a date of September 18th for Rollinsford's Community Forum. Messier stated they need to be at that. Gadomski stated you do not have to be there but may want to hear what is going on. Patten asked if we could still have our own Community Forum and discussions? Gadomski stated that this committee can choose anything that they want. He stated that if they wanted to

proceed with a Community Forum to gather information you can do that. He stated that you need to have a Community Forum if you are presenting a plan. Hanlon asked if they have a forum between now and January, would that count if there was a new committee appointed in January so we would not need another one? Gadomski stated that he felt no, because the authority of this committee would have run out. Hanlon stated that he feels that they should continue as if they are coming to a finding and see what we get from the public. He stated that we are still serious about doing something. He stated that he does not want people to think that we are playing a waiting game. Messier stated that they will meet at some point after the 18th after hearing what is said at Rollinsford's Community Forum. He stated that there was no public outcry to hurry up and get out of Rollinsford. He stated that we were charged to investigate something and we are moving in that direction. Marsh stated that he recognizes what public perception can be. He stated that deciding to not to decide at this time is part of the strategy. He stated that sometimes being patient and letting things take a course is deciding and making a decision. Richardson stated that about half a dozen people have asked him what is going on. He stated that these are public meetings that people do not come to. He stated that he would like to see us have a Community Forum. He stated we need that public conversation and at least offer the opportunity to the public because they are aware that the committee exists and they have not heard from the committee. Witham stated that there is no requirement for them to have a Community Forum if we choose to do nothing. He asked what we are going to tell the people as to what the direction is? Richardson stated that the direction is that we will wait to hear about the vote in Rollinsford in March. Patten stated that there is a misconception that this committee was put together to separate from Rollinsford. He stated that when he was appointed to the committee he was appointed to investigate the options. He stated that choosing not to make a decision at this time is a decision. He asked if a statement could be put out by this committee that says we are in a holding period to wait and see what happens in Rollinsford? Richardson stated that they are a committee of the City Council, are we reporting back to them? Gadomski stated yes. Richardson stated that is where your statement is. Gadomski stated that you do not need to make a statement tonight, you do not need to vote on anything tonight, it is just how you are going to proceed from here. He stated that if you have the Community Forum you tell them here are the options that have been explored, the data that you have gathered and things that you have looked at and that you are supporting the withdrawal of Rollinsford while keeping our options open and we would like to have feedback from the community on what you think about the process so far. Hanlon stated that the goal is separation. He stated that Rollinsford has made it clear in the joint meetings that they want the opportunity to withdraw so we are waiting for that. Gadomski stated that we are supporting that while keeping all options open. He stated that he has drafted up language for the City Council to think about appointing another committee but this does not have to go anywhere until much later. Witham stated that he thinks they need to meet after the Rollinsford Community Forum to discuss what they hear there. Richardson asked if our Community Forum can be a presentation to the City Council? Gadomski stated that perhaps they could set a Community Forum with a meeting directly after. Witham stated that the goal of this committee is separation. He stated that Rollinsford withdrawing achieves that goal. Gadomski stated that if

separation is where this committee is at then we can make that very clear in the opening statement that this committee supports separation because it is the cleanest and easiest way to keep this committee active and involved. Patten stated that we have talked about Rollinsford separating but perhaps contracting with them. He stated that separation is a tough word and very permanent. Messier stated that they had received word from the lawyer that we cannot diminish their participation in the Joint Board without separation because it is by RSA. Patten stated that they could do it on their own. Messier stated they cannot do that either because of an RSA. Gadomski stated that the only way they could do that is to have fewer Board Members. Patten stated that he would like them to know that we would welcome them back under a contract basis. Gadomski stated that they will be able to say, after tonight's School Board Meeting, if they are welcoming them back on a contract basis. He stated that we are looking for a separation of authority but the Board has already discussed the opportunity to contact services. Hanlon stated that he does not want to charge them more than they are paying now. Gadomski stated that if you stick to the same formula that you are doing right now it will be fair to them and us. Witham stated they need to come up with a date for the Community Forum. He stated that he believes all are in support of separation of authority.

3. After discussion September 25th was set for the Community Forum at 6:00 at the City Hall, with a Withdrawal Committee Meeting following.
4. **Adjournment:** Witham made a motion seconded by Richardson to Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Melinda Sullivan
Board Secretary